

## Bird Notes



Sitting next to Mrs. Robert MacCallum at the annual meeting of the Duxbury Community Garden Club, we heard about her joy in knowing that four orioles (two families) had nested on her estate.

Adelaide Baumer reports a new visitor - a rose-breasted grosbeak.

Mrs. Gladys Boland reports wood thrushes singing their heads off on a branch close to her head. "A pair of catbirds return and look us all over delightedly."

Bobbie Cutler reports two swallows nesting in her garage.

Lucie Bischoff addresses me as "Dear Mrs. Audubon," and follows with a splendid list which we print in full:

During the first week in May when the weather changed from unusually cold to the near opposite, the white-throated, white-crowned, and fox sparrows in our garden were replaced by hermit, wood-thrush, and brown thrasher...by towhees, catbirds, and Baltimore Orioles. There have been large flocks of male robins. They are all seeking the right territory. Phoebe seem more numerous than in former years; purple finches are singing, and catbirds and barn-swallows are back at last year's nests. We have not seen the mockingbird which adorned the naked branches when we left home in February. All bird lovers should watch extra special for this southerner which of late has bred in many places in New England. (And is reported in nearly every list, Lucie). The whippoorwill seems particularly loud during these moonlit nights. Terns and lesser and greater yellow-legs came back on the dot, while quite a number of brant are still out in the bay. The large armies of red-breasted mergansers which fascinated us until last week, seem to have moved to northern regions.

I saw wood-ducks in the Wildlife Sanctuary, and also mallards, but missed the killdeer, which formerly bred on the athletic field. Has anyone seen them? I did see a pair on Merry's new golf course enjoying peace. I wonder for how long? Also over Merry's cranberry bogs, a peregrine hawk, not a common visitor."

Thanks a lot, Lucie. The dying-off column has come to life again.

And again I must ask you all to report on the special birds you have in your garden, or have seen nearby.

Can anybody help John Cutler identify the "muffled alarm-clock" bird that early in the morning makes a strange sound? "Something like durrungggggg, repeated at a few intervals, then silence."

What makes this sound?

-- O.O.H.

DUXBURY CLIPPER

Thursday, May 27, 1965